JUVENILE JUSTICE/School Violence Prevention and Safety Programs

SUBJECT: Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999...S. 254. Hatch (for Gregg) amendment No. 324 to the Hatch/Biden/Sessions modified amendment No. 322.

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 94-5

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, S. 254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999, will modernize Federal grant programs that give aid to State and local governments for juvenile law enforcement and juvenile crime prevention efforts. Approximately \$1 billion per year for the next 5 years will be authorized for those grant programs. Also, \$100 million annually will be authorized for joint Federal-State-local efforts to address gang-related juvenile crime.

The Hatch/Biden/Sessions modified amendment would earmark 25 percent of the \$450 million annually that the bill will provide for accountability block grants for drug treatment and crime prevention programs. (Accountability block grants will be given to States for a variety of purposes, including: the construction of juvenile offender detention facilities; implementing graduated sanctions programs; utilizing programs for the coordination of justice and social service resources for juvenile offenders; fingerprinting or conducting DNA tests on juvenile offenders; establishing record-keeping abilities; enforcing truancy laws; and funding various prevention programs, including after-school programs, anti-gang activities, literacy programs, and job-training programs. To be eligible for funding, States will have to adopt three core accountability policies: the establishment of graduated sanctions to ensure appropriate correction of juvenile offenders; drug testing juvenile offenders upon arrest in appropriate cases; and recognition of victims' rights and needs in the juvenile justice system). The amendment would also authorize \$45 million for grants to the States to hire prosecutors for juvenile offenders. Finally, the amendment would extend the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund until the year 2005.

The Hatch (for Gregg) amendment would add the "Safe Students Act." That Act would authorize \$200 million for fiscal year 2000 and such sums as necessary for each of the next 4 years for a new program to award grants to local education agencies and to law enforcement agencies to assist in the planning, establishing, operating, coordinating, and evaluating of school violence

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YEAS (94) NOT VOTING (1) **NAYS (5)** Republicans **Democrats** Republican **Democrats** Republicans **Democrats** (50 or 91%) (5 or 9%) (44 or 100%) (0 or 0%) (0)**(1)** Moynihan-2AY Inhofe Abraham Hagel Akaka Johnson Hatch Nickles Allard Baucus Kennedy Ashcroft Helms Bayh Kerrey Thomas Bennett Hutchinson Biden Kerry Thompson Bond Hutchison Bingaman Kohl Voinovich Brownback Jeffords Boxer Landrieu Bunning Kyl Breaux Lautenberg Burns Lott Bryan Leahy Campbell Byrd Levin Lugar Chafee Mack Cleland Lieberman Cochran McCain Conrad Lincoln Collins McConnell Daschle Mikulski Coverdell Murkowski Dodd Murray Craig Roberts Dorgan Reed Reid **EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:** Crapo Roth Durbin Robb DeWine Santorum Edwards 1—Official Business Domenici Sessions Feingold Rockefeller 2-Necessarily Absent Enzi Shelby Feinstein Sarbanes 3-Illness Fitzgerald Smith, Bob Graham Schumer 4—Other Smith, Gordon Harkin Torricelli Frist Gorton Snowe Hollings Wellstone SYMBOLS: Gramm Specter Inouve Wyden AY—Announced Yea Grams Stevens AN-Announced Nav Grassley Thurmond PY-Paired Yea Warner Gregg PN-Paired Nay

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prevention and school safety programs. Awards would be granted at the discretion of the Attorney General, with the sole limitation being that she would have to give priority in awarding grants to applications that were submitted jointly by a local educational agency and a law enforcement agency. The Attorney General would determine the form and required contents of applications for grants. No formula would govern the distribution of funds.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

Last year, in the Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary appropriations bill, the Senate added \$210 million for a safe schools proposal. That proposal allowed schools to apply to the Justice Department for school safety grants. Those grants were to meet three main goals: to allow police officers to work with schools as resource officers or as actual security officers within the school systems; to fund devices such as metal detectors to help schools identify hazardous things that might come into the schools as weapons; and to initiate prevention programs that schools thought would meet their own communities' particular needs. By giving grants for a broad array of school safety purposes we felt that local communities would be better able to come up with solutions that worked the best for them. Unfortunately, though \$210 million has been appropriated, the Clinton Administration has yet to send one cent of that money in grants to local communities. In offering the Gregg amendment, we are now codifying what we began last year with funding, and we hope that by so doing we will prod the Administration into giving these grants. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.